Three General

EPISTLES

FOR THE

WHOLE BODY

OF

FRIENDS.

1 } From { *William Caton,*
2 } { *R. Greenway:*
3 } { *Christopher Bacon,*

Printed in the Yeer 1662.

BRITISH MUSEUM

Three General Epistles, &c.

Amsterdam the 15*th.* of the 11th. Month 1662.

MY dear Brethren and Beloved Sisters in the pure, holy and heavenly Relation, who are sons and daughters of one Father, and heirs of one Kingdom, begotten through the one Eternal Word of Life, which lives and abides for ever; With the salutation of my dearest love do I greet you all, and with strong and vehement desires to the Lord; do I wish, that love and life, joy and peace, grace and mercy may be multiplied among you all, to the filling of every of your earthen Vessels, to the refreshing of every weary soul, and to the making glad of every sorrowful heart among you.

I hope (my dearly beloved) you are not forgetful of the wonderful kind Love of our God, which he manifested to us in the day of our visitation, how he sought us out that were as lost sheep going astray, that he might bring us unto himself, who is the chief *S*hepherd and *B*ishop of our souls, how he took us as perforce from our Lovers, that our hearts and affections might be set upon him, and that our souls might love him above all; how he broke us, that he might bind us up; how he blinded us, that he might make us see; how he wounded us, that he might heal us; how he impoverished us, that he might make us rich; how he weakned us, that he might make us strong: and how he proved and cryed us as gold that is seven times tryed in the fire; that we might finally become his Jewels; though then we knew not whether that we should become Vessels of honor or dishonor: And since that day of blessed Visitation, how hath his endlesse love abounded towards us! how plentifully hath his Wisdom and Power been manifested amongst us! And what won-

wonderful things have we ſeen him ſince bring to paſſe by the Arm of his Power, not onely to our admiration, but alſo to the aſtoniſhment of his Enemies: And oh! how hath he brought down Principalities, and ſhaken powers inwardly and outwardly! how hath he overturned, overturned that which hath been exalted inwardly and outwardly; that that which hath been abaſed, might be exalted! how hath he confounded the wiſdom of the wiſe, and brought the underſtanding of the Prudent to nothing! how hath he ſcattered them that were gathered, and not by him, that he might gather that which was ſcattered from him! Oh the Wonders that he hath wrought in the Earth, they are innumerable! And the noble acts that he hath done in the Earth, who can declare them to the utmoſt? Nevertheleſſe, we will be ſpeaking of them (when thereunto moved by his ſpirit) that we thereby may ſhew forth his praiſe, who through his making us Witneſſes of them, hath made truly glad our hearts and ſouls, which have cauſe to rejoice in him, notwithſtanding his trying of us with many tryals, and his proving of us through many temptations and tribulations, vvhich many have been exerciſed in; and that divers manner of vvays. Yet let us not faint, nor let ſlip the confidence that vve have in him; for as certain as vve have ſeen his Wonders in the Earth, ſo certainly hath he vvrought ſeveral of them for good towards us; and as certainly as he hath dealt gently and favourably vvith us, ſo aſſuredly hath he loved us: And as certainly as his glorious Work is begun in the Earth, ſo aſſuredly will he make known his Name and Povver even unto the ends of the Earth: And as certainly as his adverſaries oppoſe him and his Truth, ſo aſſuredly ſhall they be broken as the potſherds of the Earth; and as certainly as his lambs and babes novv mourn and are afflicted, ſo aſſuredly ſhall they rejoice and be comforted: And as certainly as the Wicked are novv ſet up, ſo aſſuredly ſhall they fall: And as certainly as iniquity abounds, ſo aſſuredly ſhall it have an end: And as certainly as the name of the Lord is blaſphemed and diſhonored, ſo aſſuredly ſhall it be glorified and exalted in the earth: And as certainly as Gods Truth is now trampled upon, and rejected by thouſands, ſo aſſuredly ſhall it be advanced and received by ten thouſands; and though my eye ſhould not ſee the fulfilling of theſe things, yet

I will

I will rejoice, and do rejoice in the Teſtimony that I have, that theſe things ſhall come to paſs. And my ſoul inviteth you (my dear brethren and ſiſters) to come and rejoice with me in the aſſurance which God giveth us of the certainty of theſe things, which ſhal as certainly be fulfilled, as it is certain that the things before mentioned are come to paſs ſince the Lord omnipotent firſt viſited us.

Wherefore (my dearly beloved) look not out at the preſent blackneſs and darkneſs which repreſents it ſelf upon the face of the Earth, by reaſon of the many clouds which hang over the Earth: But look at the Day-ſtar which is ariſen in your hearts, which precedes the ſons of righteouſneſs, which though he yet ſeem to be darkned, yet as certainly as the Lord *Jehovah* is in the higheſt Heavens, ſo aſſuredly ſhall this Sun of Righteouſneſs ariſe, and ſhine glorioufly in the hearts of the ſons of men; and then ſhall juſt Judgement be ſet up in the Earth, and the Inhabitants thereof they ſhall learn righteouſneſs; then ſhal Wickedneſs and Oppreſſion have an end, Cruelty and Tyranny ſhall have no place, and Deceit and Unrighteouſneſs ſhall wither, and the Works and Workers of iniquity ſhall go to decay: And then ſhall the joyful ſong of deliverance be ſung by the ranſomed ones of the Lord, then ſhall the voice of joy and gladneſs be heard in our Land; then ſhall babes and ſucklings learn the ſong of *Zion*, and the ſons and daughters of the Moſt High ſhall make a heavenly pleaſant melody, and great wil be the joy and delight of the Lords choſen, even ſuch, as that their preſent ſufferings ſhall not be worthy to be compared to the ſame.

Therefore O ye my ſuffering Friends, be ye comforted, be ye comforted of the Lord, and comfort ye one another with the aſſurance which God hath given unto ſome of his ſervants, of the certainty of theſe things coming to paſs, of which I believe ſome of you wil be eye-witneſſes, and partakers with the Saints in Light; and my confidence is, That neither principalities nor powers ſhall be able to deprive you thereof, though they ſhould be permitted to deprive you of your liberty, of your eſtates, and of the ſociety of Friends: And if your Heavenly Father ſhould ſuffer ſuch things to come to paſs for the trial of your precious Faith, be not ye therefore dejected, as if you were altogether left comfortleſs, and ſhould ſo perpetually remain; For I teſtifie

unto

unto you, That our Heavenly Father hath reserved enough in store, not onely to comfort you withal in this life, but also in the life to come.

And now therefore as a servant of the Lord God to you all (who writes these things with tears unto you) do I in his Name beseech you to be faithful and obedient, quiet and peaceable children, behaving your selves as Lambs, or as new-born babes in his sight in this generation, lest you should provoke him through your disobedience, by being unfaithful and unquiet in his house; and they that are, or become so, they must be excluded and shut out too, among them that are without,—without love, faith, hope, peace, comfort and refreshment, in the reprobate state, where the rents, schisms, strivings, divisions, envyings and hatings are, which are the fruits which they produce that go out from the Spirit, in which love, joy, and everlasting peace is. Therefore I exhort and beseech you all, to walk together in this one *Spirit*, to meet together to serve the Lord in this one Spirit, that you may be like-minded, & that the fruits of it may abound in and among you plenteously, to the glory of him that hath visited you with the day-spring from on high, and hath opened a Fountain for you, and hath prepared a Feast of fat things for you, and withal a rest for your weary souls.

Wherefore faint not in the day of your adversity, lest your Enemies vaunt themselves, as if your God would not preserve you in unity, love, peace & patience, in which you had need to continue, lest that the Enemy within or without, should get an advantage against you, which might easily be, if *prejudice* should be permitted to have place in any of you one against another; & thereby might the Lord be provoked to *jealousie* against you. And therefore above all things, let brotherly love continue, that through your love to the Father, one to another, & to all men, it may evidently appear that you are of your Father the Lord *Jehovah*, who is love, and who delights in love and mercy, both which I bear him record he hath richly vouchsafed unto you, my dearly beloved, unto whom in his love I have writ this in brief, which to that end *I* received from him, and which I have now finally communicated to you, or rather the Spirit of the Lord through me his servant, & your dear and faithful brother in the one truth,

William Caton.

Greetings of ſtrength in the holy life; and ſalutations of endeared love, to the riſing ſeed of the inviſible God, every where as this may come.

A Salutation of Love from the motion of the Spirit of Life and Love, ſent to all that are of the Royal birth, and are of the Seed immortal, and of the Flock of God, who in this his bleſſed and glorious day, his Fold of Reſt are come to know; and are waiting to feel the ſame more and more, to be read in the fear and wiſdom of God.

All you tender Lambs who are gathered out of the World and its evil wayes and cuſtoms, by the powerful Arm of the living God, in that which is pure dwel, low in the pure holy fear, and your good Shepherds Fold you wil feel; and therein do you abide, and you wil be ſafe in the ſtorms, and from the terrors and affrightments of the wild Beaſts of the field, and the Wolves of the night wil not be able to come near your dwellings, to enter your holy habitation, nor to touch your Life, for from them it wil be hid in God; And Friends, therein watch and wait, and the good Shepherds voice you wil come to hear, who ſpeaks peace to all his Lambs and little ones, that are of an upright heart, who wait upon, fear and truſt in him; and in ſo doing you wil alſo feel his Eternal Arm made bare for your ſalvation, deliverance and defence: And all you children of the Day of God which hath ſprung from on High, by which he hath viſited and called unto you even by the good Word of his Grace, by which he hath begotten you again, and choſen you to be his Inheritance and generation, which hath ſprung up from the Seed of Life, which the Father and Fountain of Love and Life hath ſhed abroad in this the day of his large kindneſs and rich mercy, which

which in your hearts in measure you have felt: Oh dear friends, let the eye of your minds be alwayes fixed and fastened upon the same, even upon that in which the God and Father of Mercies hath so exceeding largely extended himself unto you, and in which he hath abundantly appeared in the manifestation of his loving kindness towards you, in begetting you again which were strayed, and in gathering you that were scattered afar off, and lost from him, and in raising you up to be a people to himself, that were not his people, and in begetting you to be his children, that were sometimes strangers, and in the alienation; and all this hath he done for you of his own good wil, in the riches of his free grace, when there was no worthiness at all in you, even when you were wallowing in your filth, when you were in your blood, & no eye pittied you, even that was the time of his Love, Oh my dear Friends! I say, prize this his large Love, and forget not those his benefits, but dwel in the sence and feeling thereof; so that from the virtue of his Love felt in your hearts, you may receive daily strength and growth in the Heavenly Life of Righteousness and true Holiness, that so the Image of your Heavenly Father you may come to bear more and more every day, and may live, walk, and abide therein to his praise, a chast, peculiar people, a chosen generation, zealous of good works, and hating the very appearance of evil, that so you may be manifest unto all men, that you are of the Houshold of Faith, children of Truth, and of the Family of the living God, who are sitting in the Heavenly places in Christ, and know and feel the Table of the Lord, and are feeding together on the Bread of Life which comes down from above, which the World are ignorant of; and drinking of the Cup of Blessing, in which you may feel and taste of the salvation of God, to the comforting of your souls, and gladding of your hearts, by which you may be strengthened and enabled to do the Wil and Requirings of the Lord, either in doing or in suffering. Oh you dear Babes and tender Plants, you that have felt of the sweetness of the Milk of the Breast of Consolation, when you were ready to pine for want, and have been watered with that which came from the everlasting Spring and Well of salvation in a time of great drought. Oh dear hearts! I say again, abide in the feeling of the same, that so you may always see and behold the

hand

hand of God's mighty power, that he hath reached out unto you, and watch thereto, and wait therein to receive more and more of the Heavenly Virtue and dew from above, that so you may grow as the Lillies, and spread forth as the Trees that are planted by the Rivers side, bringing forth fruits of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, bringing forth fruit in due season, wherein you wil be lovely to the Father, and one unto another; and so in the Love and Life abiding, and keeping in the unity, you wil be known to be the planting of the Lord, to the glory of his most holy Name. And tender Friends, and little ones, I exhort you in the Name and fear of the Lord, to watch against, and to be aware of suffering any root of bitterness to spring up amongst you, or of harbouring any prejudice one against another; but in that Spirit of Love dwel, which thinks no evil, nor is not easily provoked; for that which gives offence, and that which takes the offence, is one, and comes from the same old root of bitterness, and proceeds from him that watcheth to divide and devour, and to break the unity amongst the Lambs, and to make a prey, a rent, a division, and a spoil; and if any are overtaken in these things for want of a diligent watch to their thoughts, words and actions, in it the Enemy will have a great advantage to hurt your peace, and to weaken you. And therefore dear friends, be tender one to another; let the strong bear with the weak, and be you pittiful and tender-hearted towards the bruised Reeds, that have been hurt by the subtilty of the Enemy, and let your bowels earn over any in whom there is yet remaining a little Love or Zeal, though it be but as a smoaking Flax; or of any that are wounded by reason of their fall which they have taken in the Evening-tide. I say again in God's fear, Be very tender to any such that in the spirit of love and meekness such may be restored, if so it may be: For Friends, you your selves may be tempted, snared and overtaken by the subtil Enemies bait, and therefore let all that think they stand, fear continually, and take heed lest they also fall. And Friends, beware of watching over one another with an evil eye; for that watcheth for the evil, and doth not see the good; and by that the good manners is, and hath been corrupted, and they that watch with that eye, they provoke to evil, and not to

 good.

good. And Friends, it lieth upon me to warn you to take heed of looking back to *Egypt*, or to any thing that you have left behind; but pass on, and let your eye be to that which is before, and abide in the way in which you have begun to walk, and in the patience dwel, and keep to the good Word thereof, that in the Faith you may be found, that so the old Enemy may not beguile you, and so you come to be dispossessed of the blessing through disobedience; therefore to your Guide keep, and faithfully follow him, and take heed of staying behind, and beware of being too forward in going before; for there is danger in both; of being overcome with the Enemy: In staying behind, you wil be guilty of disobedience, and so not onely lose your reward, and the blessing of rest and peace; but you will have that Talent taken away which you do possess, and you wil have your portion where wil be weeping and gnashing of teeth: And he that goes before, wil be puffed up above his measure, and so forget the Lord, and he wil have his portion also with the wicked. Therefore I do exhort and warn you all to take heed of an evil heart of unbelief, and of departing from the living God: Be you all therefore stedfastly grounded, setled and staid in your minds, unmoveable, upon the everlasting Foundation of God that standeth sure, that so you may not be tossed, turned aside, nor easily shaken in your minds, from that which you have believed, nor weakned in your confidence, but that you may hold out unto the end, and then you wil assuredly receive your reward, if you faint not: So you that have believed in the Truth, take heed of fainting, and beware of hunting abroad; for my Friends, there may be erring on the right hand, as wel as on the left; therefore to your Leader keep, and dwel low in the pure fear, and so the Cross you wil be led into, and then you wil feel that which wil slay your Enemies on every hand; for of a truth friends, there is no safety out of the fear, nor prosperity out of the Cross; therefore let your resolution be for ever therein to dwel, and then you wil obtain the Crown, and reap the Blessing that is everlasting. So remember, it was he that hunted abroad, that fainted, and sold his Birth-right for a little of the earthly enjoyment, to satisfie his earthly desire, and so he lost the blessing: Therefore all dear Lambs and little ones, keep at home, and dwel in your own habitation, in the Light, the House of the living God, and be you faithful unto him

him in all things that he doth require, that ſo none might deprive you of your bleſſed Inheritance, nor take away your Crown of glory, joy, reſt and peace. 130

And Friends, Brethren and Siſters, children of God, think it not ſtrange that we have tryal upon tryal; and if the Furnace of affliction cometh to be heat more hotter, yet look not out thereat, be valiant for the Lord, and for his Truth upon the Earth, and in that ſtand which is immovable; for this I have ſeen in the eternal Light, that there wil be a day of dividing and ſeparating between the precious and the vile, the good metal and the droſs, between the weighty Wheat, and the light airy chaff; between the meek, gentle, patient ſheep, and the rough rugged Goats; the vile in nature ſhal no longer be hid under a falſe, outſide form of likeneſs, without the Power and Life, that droſs ſhall no longer abide among the good Metal, to darken the brightneſs thereof; for the day is come that burns as an Oven; the Furnace is already kindled, and the Refiners fire is lighted, which wil try each matter, metal and work, of what ſort it is, neither ſhal the chaff any longer cover the good Wheat, but by the Arm of Gods Eternal Power wil be threſhed off, and blown away with the wind of his wrath; for he is come whoſe Fan is in his hand, by which he wil ſcatter the chaff, and the wheat he wil gather into his Garner, therein to be preſerved; and he wil alſo purge his Floor in this his notable day, and all the gentle, meek and patient ſheep on his right hand he wil ſet, where the fulneſs of joy, mercy, peace and pleaſures are for ever, and for evermore; when as the rough and bruitiſh Goats ſhal be ſeparated on the left hand, to receive the curſe, having walked out of the way of righteouſneſs, which is the way of peace; in that therefore (dear Friends) all abide, which wil make you fruitful, and to abound in every good word and work; for this is the day wherein he is come to ſeek for fruit, and bleſſed wil all they be that are found in the Faith, for its they that are in the Vine, and therein abide, which wil yeild unto the Lord living fruit of obedience, and every Tree wil be clearly known of what ſort they are, by their fruit; for no man can gather grapes of Thorns, or figs of thiſtles: Therefore all to the Vine come, that the nature thereof you may feel, that ſo fruitful unto the Lord you may all be in this his glorious day, to the praiſe and glory of his moſt holy Name; for I have alſo ſeen in the Spirit of

the living God, that there wil be a mighty fierce ſtorm, a very great tempeſt, and a ſhaking time, ſuch as hath not yet been upon the Earth, by which thoſe trees that are fruitleſs, dead and dry, which hath ſtood for a time, and made a ſhew, yet do but cumber the ground, and are rotten at the root, are not wel ſetled and faſtned upon the true Foundation, in the good ground, they wil be turned up, and laid low, as without it hath been ſeen, in which the Lord hath ſhewn his mighty Power, though the blind do not ſee nor regard the operation of his hand. And after that great and notable day of the Lord in which many of the lofty Hills and high Mountains wil be overturned and levelled thereby, and the tall Cedars and the ſturdy Oaks wil be made to bend and bow, and many great old buildings wil be thrown off its rotten Foundation; then I ſay, in that day thoſe that do ſtand and abide firm and wel faſtned, they wil be exceeding faithful, to the praiſe and glory of the Lord, and ſuch his good Trees that are bringing forth fruit unto him in this his day, them he wil purge, prune, dreſs, prop and preſerve: and the wild Bores of the Forreſt, (whoſe nature is to root, rend and tear) ſhall never be able to root them up, neither ſhall the ſubtil Foxes of the Wood have power to crop and ſpoile their tender branches, that abide in the living Vine; neither ſhall they ever be able to hinder them from cluſtering, for the Lord God wil guard them by his Power, and uphold them by his Eternal Arm, as hitherto he hath done; neither wil he ſuffer the Swine to deſtroy his young Plants, that are newly coming up; but by his power they ſhall be fenced, nouriſhed and kept. And ſo all my dear Friends, be not at all diſcouraged, although the Furnace may yet be hot; for the Lord wil not ſuffer his Gold to come to loſs therein, but he wil ſave and bring it forth, all that the good Metal ſhall loſe therein, ſhall be but its droſs, that it may ſhine the better in luſtre, to the honor of the Lord; and alſo his good ſheep he wil not ſuffer to be devoured by thoſe old black Blood-hounds that thirſt for blood: Oh! no, no, my Friends, he wil preſerve them, becauſe they are his own gathered by his own hand, and are profitable unto him: Therefore I ſay, he wil take care of them; and though he do ſuffer the dogs (which are without the fear) looſe a little to courſe them, and drive them up in holes and pines for a ſeaſon, it is but that they may be driven from thoſe rotten bogs of this Worlds enjoyments and de-

lights

lights, which might otherwise be hurtful for them to feed upon, that they might be driven nearer to himself, and one unto another, to wait upon the Lord, and to feed together upon the Life that is Immortal, and to lye down in his Fold of rest, peace and joy, which wil last for ever. And so my dear Friends, Brethren and Sisters, Lambs and Babes, what ever the Lord our good Shepherd suffers to come to pass, or to be acted against us in the Heathens wrath and Enemies rage, he wil turn it to his own praise, and for our good, and the remainder of the wrath & rage of the wicked he wil restrain. Therefore blessed are all you of the Lord, that can say of a truth, he is your good Shepherd. So dear Lambs and Babes, Plants and Children of the Lord, in the Light live, walk, and for ever abide, and you wil have unity and fellowship with the Father, and one with another; and so in the holy awe, and pure dread of the Lord God Almighty, stand continually, and the peace and blessing of the Lord wil be felt by you, and multiplied in and amongst you, to the glory of his most holy Name, to whom be all glory given, honor and praise rendered, with living obedience and thanksgiving for ever and for evermore, *Amen* saith my soul.

So dear Friends, take this as a testimony of my love to you all who are of my Fathers Flock, from one that is of the same Fold with you, and your Friend and Brother in the Kingdom, suffering and patience of the Lord Jesus, who am called and known to many by

Richard Greenway.

Written the sixth day of the ninth Month, 1662. in the County-Gaol, called the High Gaol at Exon, *where I suffer out-ward Bonds (for my obedience to the Command of God, and for abiding in the Doctrine of the Lord Jesus (Christ) by the wills of unreasonable men; and I in patience wait therein, until the Lord God arise in his Power, and plead my innocent cause in the hearts of my persecutors, or in his own way and time work my deliverance.*

A Sc.

A Second Salutation to the flock of God every where in outward Bonds and at liberty, who are born of the immortal Seed, and redeemed from the Earth, and ſeparated from the evil that is in this World, and called to be Saints, and quickned by the power and operation of the Spirit of Life, and ſanctified by the Word of Truth, and are (in this day of tryal) found faithful to the Lord in doing or ſuffering for that precious Truth which makes free from ſin and death, and keeps us above all the fears, threatnings, and terrors of man, whoſe power is from beneath, and ſoon paſſeth away. Oh! unto you my heart is opened, and ſtreams of unfeigned Love from the incomings of the Fountain of Life, runs forth unto you all abundantly, who am the leaſt among many Brethren, but not the leaſt in love to you: Oh my dearly beloved Brethren and Siſters, as you ſuffer for God's living Truth upon the Earth in any meaſure, I ſuffer with you, and am one with you, and am afflicted with you: Oh my dear Friends, apply your hearts, and give up your ſelves to, and for the ſervice of the living God, and diligently wait upon him in whom all our ſtrength is, that you may be ſtrengthened and encouraged, enabled and furniſhed with power and might in the Lord of Hoſts, that you may not faint, nor be weary in your minds, but ſtay your minds upon the God of Truth, that his bleſſing of peace may for ever encreaſe in all your habitations. And you dear Friends, you upon whom the ends of the Earth is come, and in your hearts the day-ſtar is ariſen, walk in the Light thereof, that you may be wiſe, bold, ſtrong and valiant, to follow the Captain of our ſalvation, who is born King of the *Jews*; for it's given to him to rule all Nations, and to ſubdue the Kingdom of this World, but not by carnal Weapons, but by his inviſible Arm of Power, and Sword which proceeds out of his mouth, whereby he wil utterly confound, deſtroy and lay waſt all that rebel and ſtand up againſt him. Therefore my dear Friends, let your Faith ſtand in the inviſible Arm and Power of God, and be you all of a ſound mind; be ye ſtedfaſt, unmoveable, rooted, grounded and eſtabliſhed in the living Truth and Righteouſneſs of the God of all the Families of the Earth, that you may not be moved, ſhaken,

nor

nor troubled in your minds at all these rumors of Wars and distress of Nations, and perplexity and wrath which must come to pass upon this generation; but lift up your heads and rejoice, and let your eye be single, alwaies looking to, and following the Prince of Peace, and be not of a doubtful mind, for the Lord of Hosts is with us, and the shout of a King is amongst us; and although we have no helper in the earth, neither can make use of any carnal weapons to defend or deliver our selves, yet in the faith and patient suffering in, and for the Lamb of God that was slain, but now is alive, and liveth for evermore; in him we shall reign in victory, life and dominion, over all our Enemies within and without. And my dear Friends, you are called to a glorious freedom and liberty in the *Spirit* of Truth, stand fast in it, that you may keep your consciences void of offence in the sight of God in all things; and if God requires one thing, and man another, obey God, and fear not man, who can but kil the body, that your souls may live in the dominion of Gods truth, and in it meet and wait, and worship him, and go not with the uncircumcised in hearts and ears, for the uncurable stroke of the Lord is near to be executed upon them; neither return back again into *Egypt*, for the plagues, pestilence and famine wil be multiplied amongst them, til the *Egyptians* be confounded. Therefore dear Friends, keep your constant watch in the true Light of the Son of the living God, that you may receive counsel, wisdom, and discerning in every motion and command, whether it be of flesh or spirit; for that which moveth in the fleshly part in your own particulars, you must take up the Cross of Christ to, in its first motion and appearance, and let true judgement pass upon it; for if it proceed forth either in act or word, it wil wound your Consciences, and abuse the power of God, and lead you into bondage again; and that which commandeth to observe and do the thing conceived in the lust of the flesh, from the fleshly birth either within or without, you are not to obey, for that wil lead to the second death; but the motion & command in the Spirit of Life you must in all things do and follow, and in it you wil live, & have perfect peace; and therefore because we are born of the Spirit, and led by it, the world wil persecute us; therefore let every Souldier of Jesus Christ be contented with his portion,

which

which is tribulation in this World; but be of good chear, the Captain of our salvation hath overcome the World: Therefore stay again in the Name, fear and power of the Lord, be you faithful unto death, for he that shall come, will come, & crown you with everlasting Life. And my dear Friends, if it seemeth good in the sight of our God, that all the dayes of our appointed time in this life, may be dayes of trouble, persecution and affliction, yet be of good comfort, this will be but for a moment, and will soon come to an end; but the joy, rest, peace and glory which our God hath prepared for us, (as we love him, and are faithful to him) shall never have an end. And so my dear Friends, in the fear, love, obedience, worship and service of the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, for ever dwel and abide, in it I am firmly united to you, and in that Love, Life and Truth of the living God, I dearly salute and embrace you all, and am as ful of love with you, as I was when I began to write; and whatsoever you suffer for your obedience to our God, and keeping the commands of Christ, whether spoiling of Goods, imprisonment, banishment, or death it self, I am resolved in the strength and power of God to partake with you.

From your faithful Friend in the patient suffering for the Testimony of a good Conscience, in the high Gaol at *Exon*, the 24th. of the tenth Month 1662.

T. AP 58 *Christopher Bacon.*

THE END.